

The California State Department of Mental Health has released the 2008 Request for Application (RFA) for the Early Mental Health Initiative (EMHI). EMHI provides funding for school-based early intervention and prevention services to kindergarten through third grade students who have mild to moderate school adjustment issues and would benefit from additional support. You may see a copy of the RFA and download it at this address:

http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Services_and_Programs/Children_and_Youth/EMHI.asp

There will be two information meetings for the RFA. One will be in Sacramento on March 5, 2008 and the other in Orange County on February 26, 2008.

It is anticipated that approximately \$3.4 million will be available to fund new EMHI programs in Fiscal Year 2008-09. However, the amount, if any, available for this purpose shall not be appropriated until the approval of the California State Budget for FY 2008-09. Any awards from this RFA are contingent on the passage of the FY 2008-09 State Budget with specific inclusion of funds for new EMHI programs.

Grant funding is provided for publicly funded elementary schools. RFA applicants must be Local Education Agencies (LEAs) which are defined in the RFA as public county offices of education, school districts, and State Special Schools. The LEA's receive three-year matching grants based on competitive scoring. The LEAs must provide at least 50 per cent of the funding, which can include in-kind services in collaboration with a community mental health agency.

You may consult the RFA to find the contact people for your region if you have additional questions.